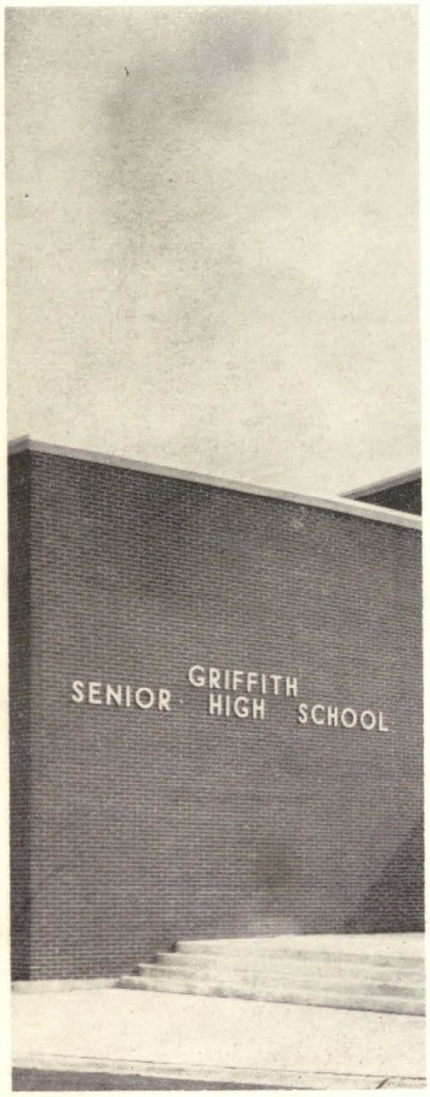
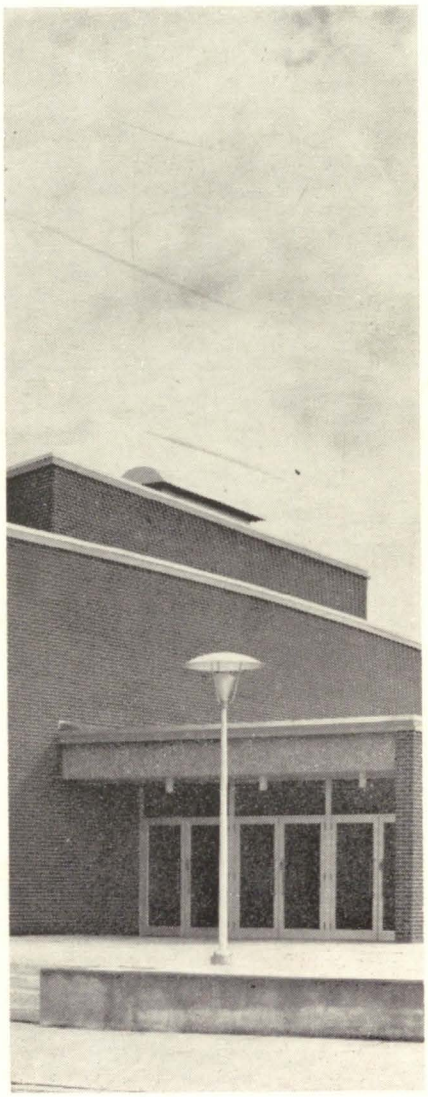
FOR REFERENCE ONLY

INDIANA COLLECTION
GRIFFITH — SCHOOLS

*Presenting*

# GRIFFITH'S JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



*. . . dedicated on Sunday, October 25, 1964*

*Griffith, Indiana*

# *Why these facilities . . .*

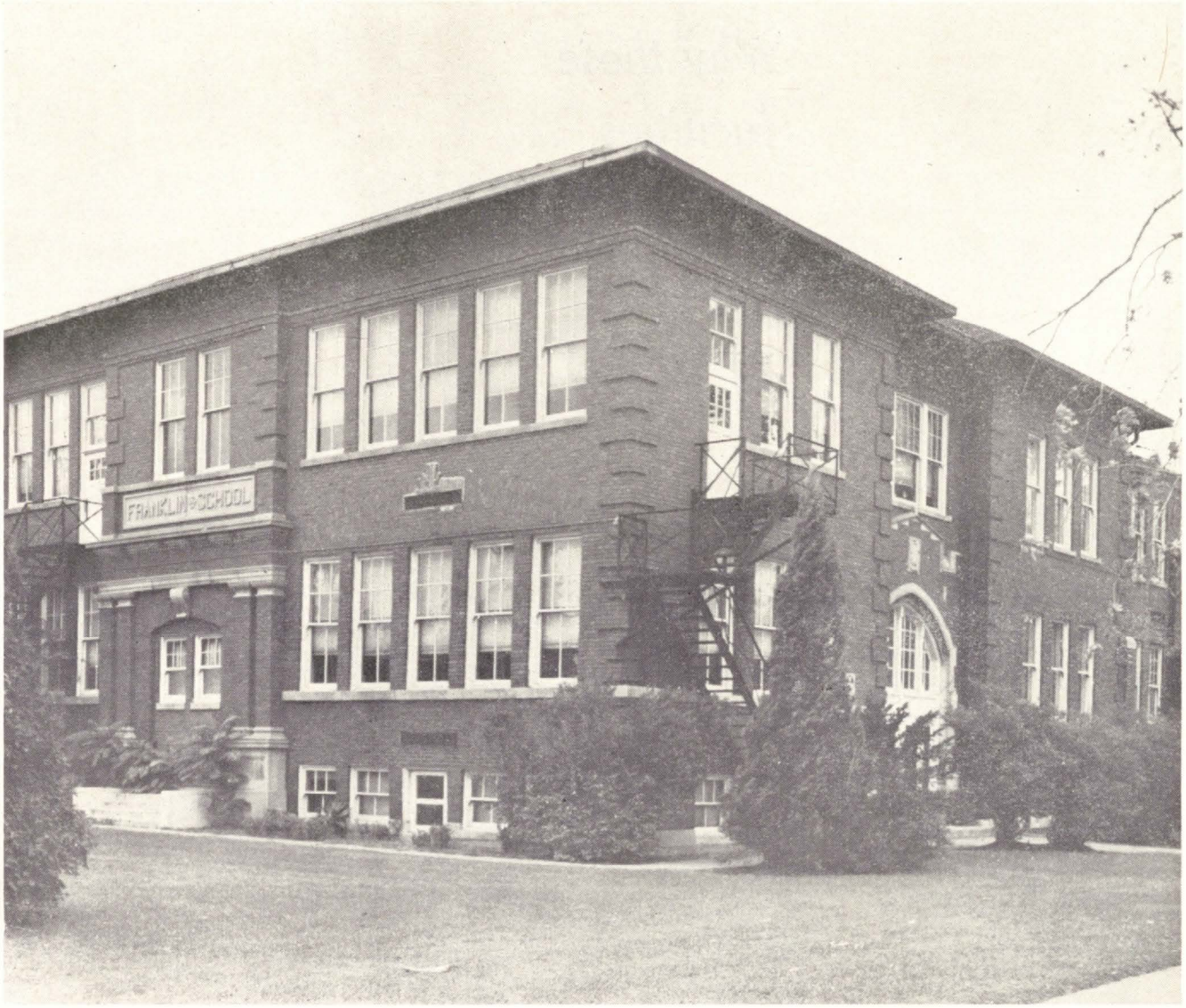
It is probable that the American public school system has been more instrumental than any other institution in our society in welding into a nation a people of diverse beginnings, backgrounds, and beliefs.

As a people our early challenge was quantity — how to make it possible for as many of our boys and girls as possible to have the opportunity to gain an education. The American people accepted this challenge, and this American dream became a reality.

But along with the realization of an educational opportunity for every boy and girl we as a people were faced with another challenge — the challenge to provide a quality education. The fact that each child had the opportunity for an education, while vital, was no longer sufficient. The tremendous changes that were beginning to take place in American society and in certain other regions of the world constituted a mandate — education had to be a quality education in order to enable the individual not only to maintain himself but to help him maintain a nation dedicated to a democratic and self-governing way of life.

The people of Griffith, as were so many other suburban areas of the United States, were faced simultaneously with the two-fold problem of quantity and quality — an exploding population coupled with the tremendous explosion of knowledge. This meant new buildings to house the student body, and the type of facilities, equipment, and curriculum sufficient to the task of aiding that student body in its quest for learning. The building and its facilities being dedicated on this day in Griffith, Indiana, is designed to meet this challenging but rewarding responsibility.

It will remain for people, however — the citizens and educators of this community — to see that this awesome responsibility is satisfactorily fulfilled.

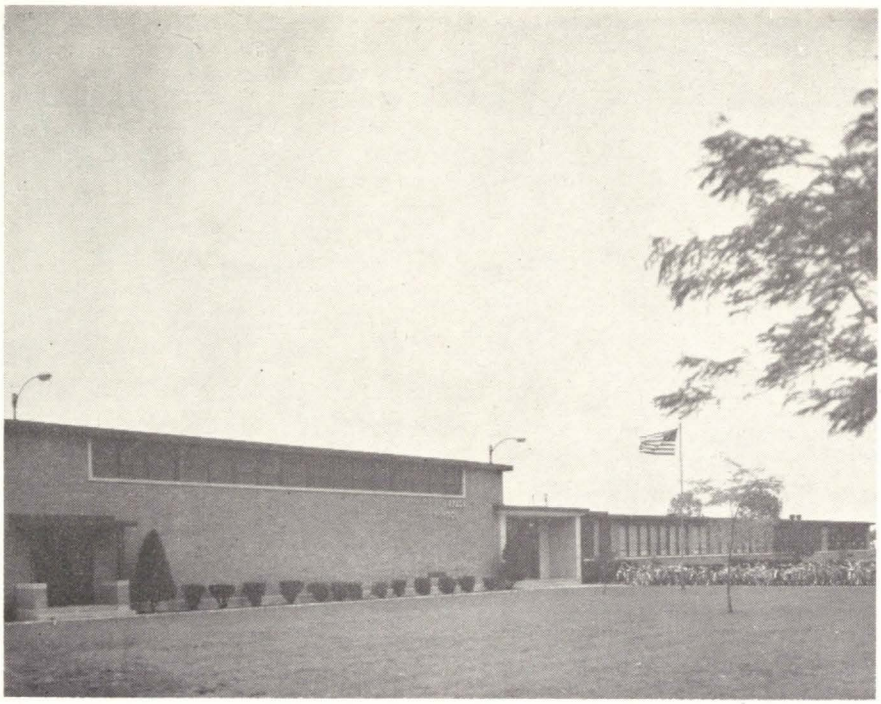



*Our community and our schools have grown together . . .*

In 1930 the population of Griffith was about 1,176. In 1940, just prior to World War II, it stood at 2,116, in 1950 at 4,470, and in 1960 it had reached 9,495. A special census conducted in August of 1964 found Griffith's population to be 12,808.

As late as 1954 the Franklin School was still attempting to accommodate every student in Griffith from grades 1 through 12, as well as transfer classes from Highland. This presented an obviously unhealthy and unwanted learning situation.

In November of 1954 the then-new Griffith High School was opened to alleviate the situation.



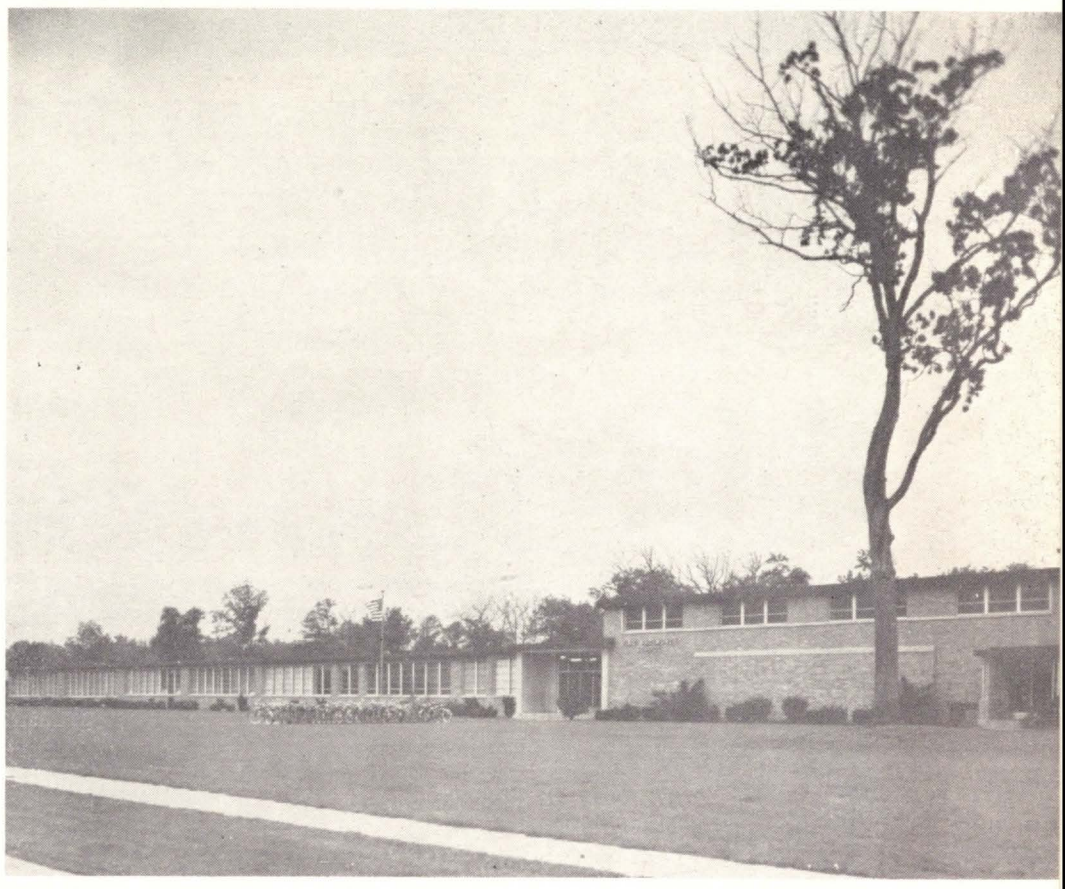
But pupil enrollment continued to surge. From 940 in 1954 enrollment jumped to 1,297 the next year; 1,517 in 1956; 1,593 in 1957; 1,832 in 1958; and to 1,985 in 1959. In January of 1959 the Eldon Ready School opened its doors with a student capacity of 360. In April of 1963 a 10-room addition, adding facilities for 300 more pupils, became necessary at Ready. But other sections of town were needing schools, too -- . . . for in 1960 the total population of Griffith had reached 9,495 and the pupil population had soared to 2,222. To continue to provide seats for everybody the Elsie Wadsworth School with a student capacity of 360 was opened in January of 1960. However, the burgeoning population soon forced a 12-room addition, and today the pupil enrollment at Wadsworth stands at 775.

Each of the Griffith elementary schools is presently equipped with materials and teaching aids sufficient to provide a quality education for each boy and girl now enrolled. The School Town of Griffith also owns sites which could accommodate two more elementary schools as we move into the future.

Each school has a full-time supervising principal working with qualified staff toward the utilization of the latest research findings in the areas of psychology of learning, teaching methods, and the structure of the various curriculum areas.

Griffith's present enrollment by schools is:

| | |
|---|---|
| Franklin Elementary | 690 |
| Ready Elementary | 590 |
| Wadsworth Elementary | 765 |
| Junior High | 570 |
| Senior High | 645 |



# *Facilities aid curriculum*

Griffith Senior High School is a comprehensive high school which includes a well developed academic program. A fundamental tenet of its philosophy is to challenge each student to fulfill his individual capability as completely as possible.

The programs are widely varied to care for a broad range of interests, abilities, ambitions, and aspirations. Such programs must accommodate those students who take jobs or become homemakers after graduation as well as those who will pursue advanced work in college and technical schools.

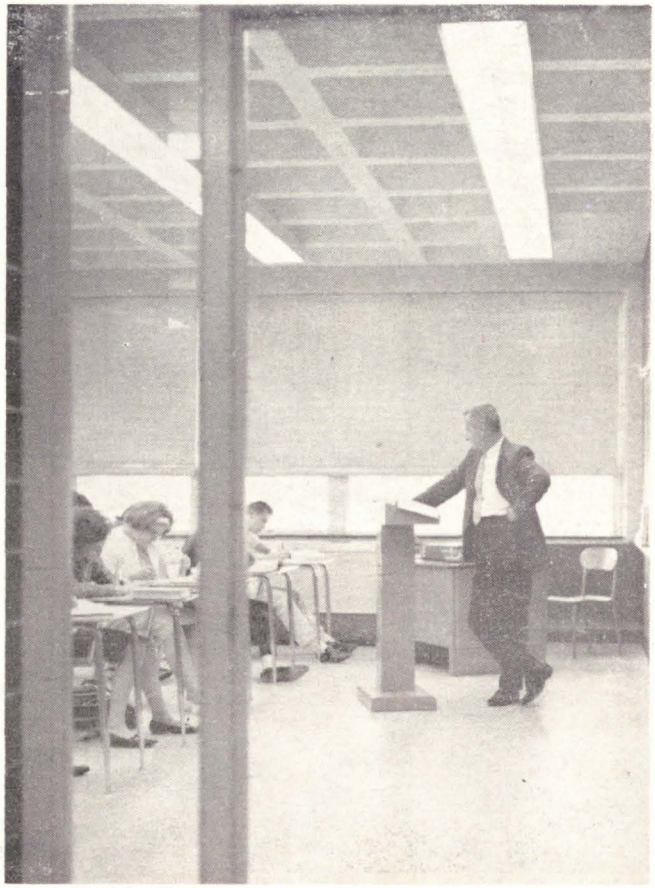
This program is capable of being expanded to meet the needs of a changing and growing community.

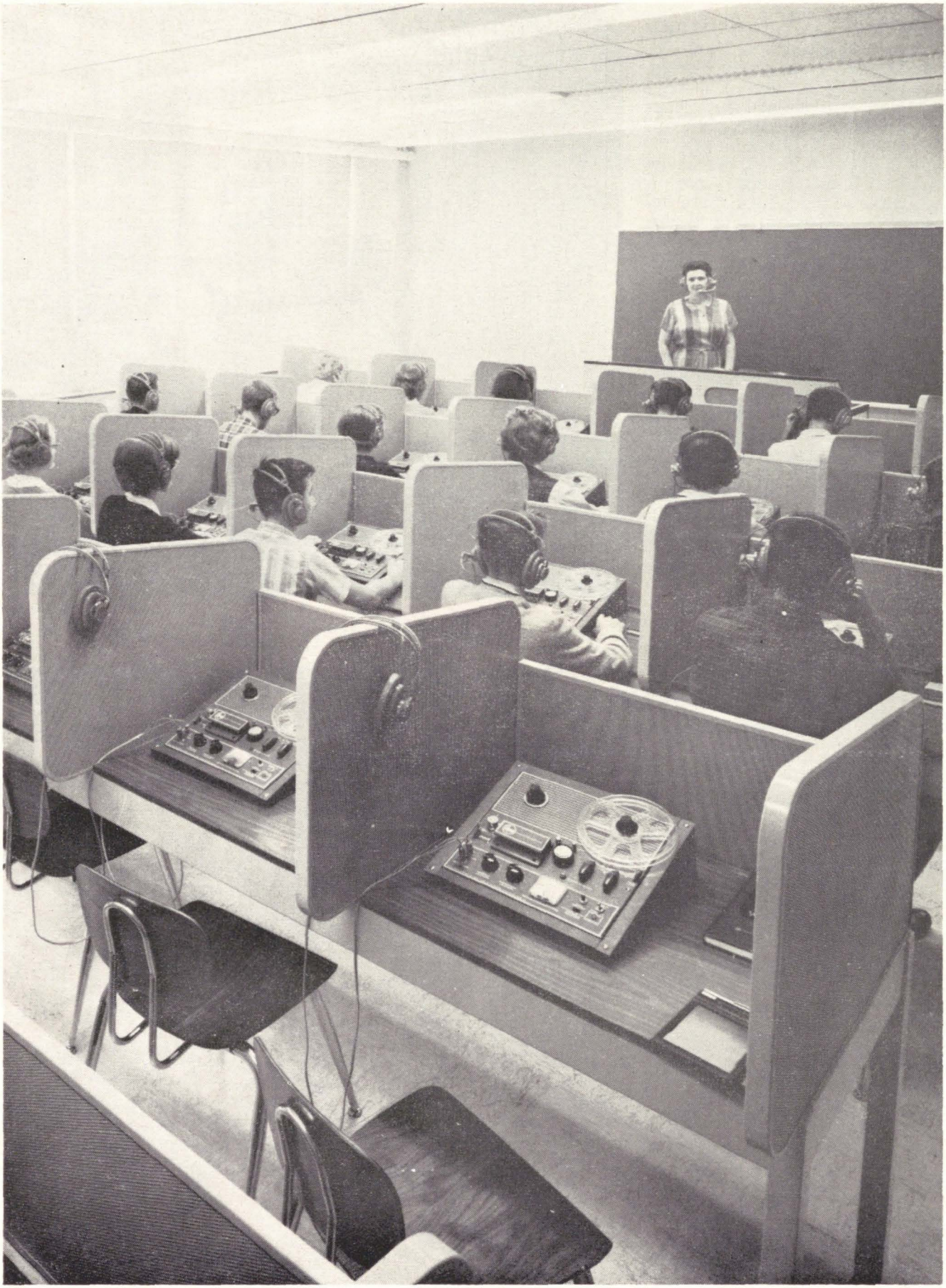
Griffith's new Jr.-Sr. High School was constructed and remodeled with four distinct areas and purposes in mind. The total complex is designed for functional use in academic, cultural, social and recreational units.

With both the junior and senior high students having separate academic sections they share the use of the library, cafeteria, auditorium, arts and crafts, music and physical education facilities.

Although the present enrollment is slightly over 1200 students, Griffith's Jr.-Sr. High School's 68 classrooms, laboratories and workrooms can provide for an ultimate day-time enrollment of 2,000 students.

Development guidelines for the new Junior-Senior High School building included provision for a wide scope of educational services. These services include a three year Junior High program, a three year Senior High program, summer educational services, and adult or post high school services.



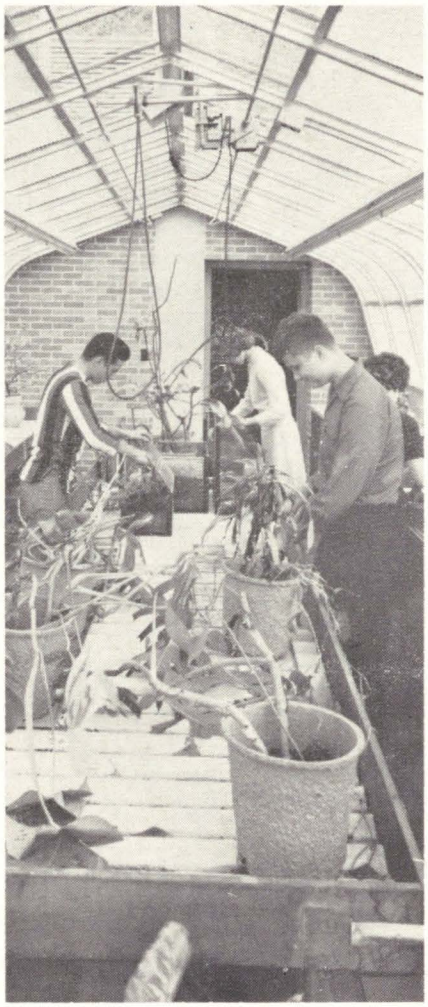


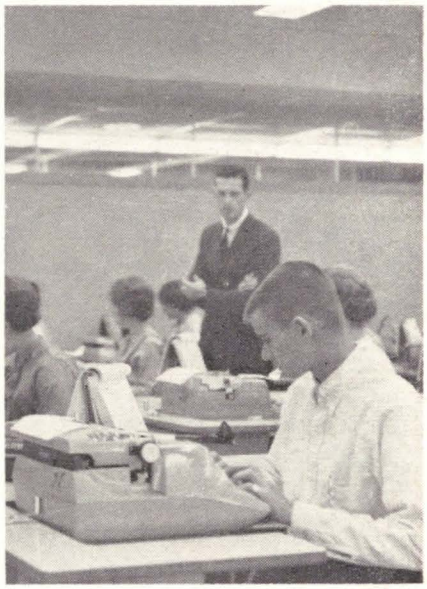
# *Designed for modern instruction*

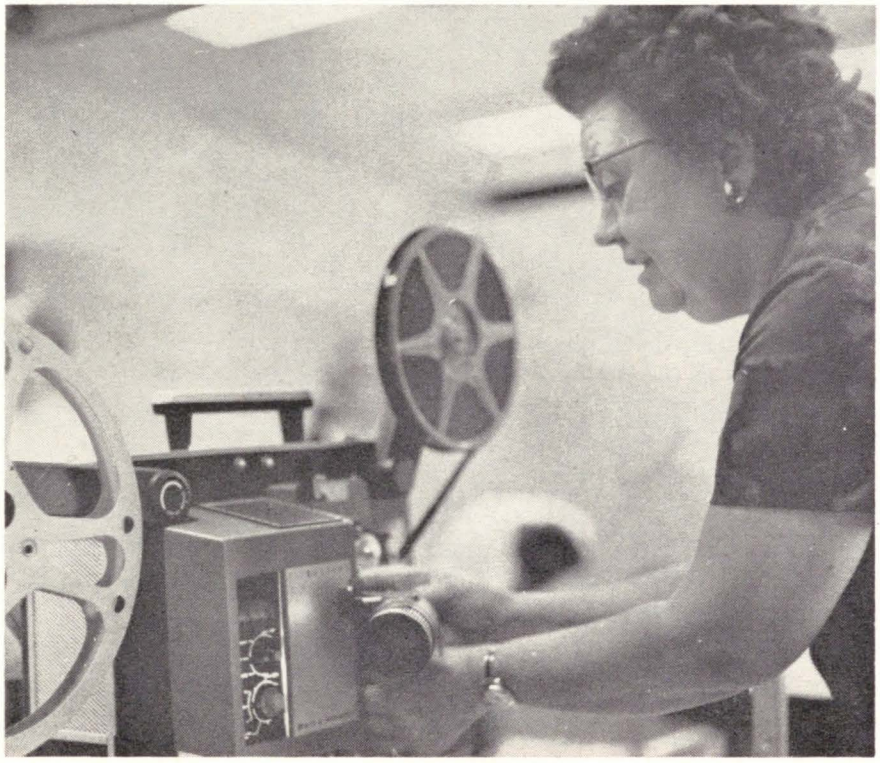
Incorporating the finest equipment and techniques to make possible a comprehensive educational program, Griffith's Junior-Senior High School presents to students an environment and atmosphere conducive to the studying and learning process.

Two language laboratories, one accommodating 30 students with full record stations in the Senior High School and a sound laboratory with 24 Audio active and six full record stations in the Junior High School, allow French and Spanish to be taught at the present time.

The greenhouse is another example of Griffith's desire to provide the best education possible. Students taking biology and other science courses will have an opportunity to experiment with plant life dealing with particular knowledge studied in the classrooms.







New provisions have been made throughout the building for closed circuit television to supplement regular class sessions as soon as installation of equipment is possible and feasible.

Four teaching stations comprise the business education area which features special furniture designed for efficient and flexible use. The business curriculum has a wide range of offerings, including general business, typing, office practice, bookkeeping, business arithmetic and salesmanship.

An audio visual center housed in the library offers teachers an opportunity to employ the latest aids in visual presentation to aid classroom instruction.

A grateful community . . . .

*says, "We thank you".*

MR. R. O. REGNIER — Board Member

MR. JESSE E. SHEETS — Board Member

MR. RAYMOND L. UNDERWOOD — Board Member

MR. JOHN F. HILBRICH — Griffith School Attorney

MR. I. J. ROBERTS — former Board Member

DR. PAUL M. SCHILLING — Superintendent of the Griffith Schools

MR. FORREST S. SHEELY — Principal of Griffith Senior High School

MR. WILLIAM C. SOMSEL — Principal of Griffith Junior High School

And — a Dedicated Staff of Griffith Teachers

It is only through the diligent thought, work and planning of these people — and the assistance and effort of our community groups and many, many individuals within the community that this learning laboratory has been achieved.

# *Students have opportunities for self-expression and exploration*

Students pursuing science courses at Griffith find laboratories equipped with apparatus necessary to foster the learning processes. The science laboratory tables consist of a one unit top with sink included as a part of a complete unit. The installation of these tables is the first in the Midwest. The tables have, however, been installed and used in California schools.

To provide for the academic needs, scholastic ambitions and the creative urge of each individual student, planned opportunities are afforded for self expression and exploration, according to different interests, talents, and abilities.

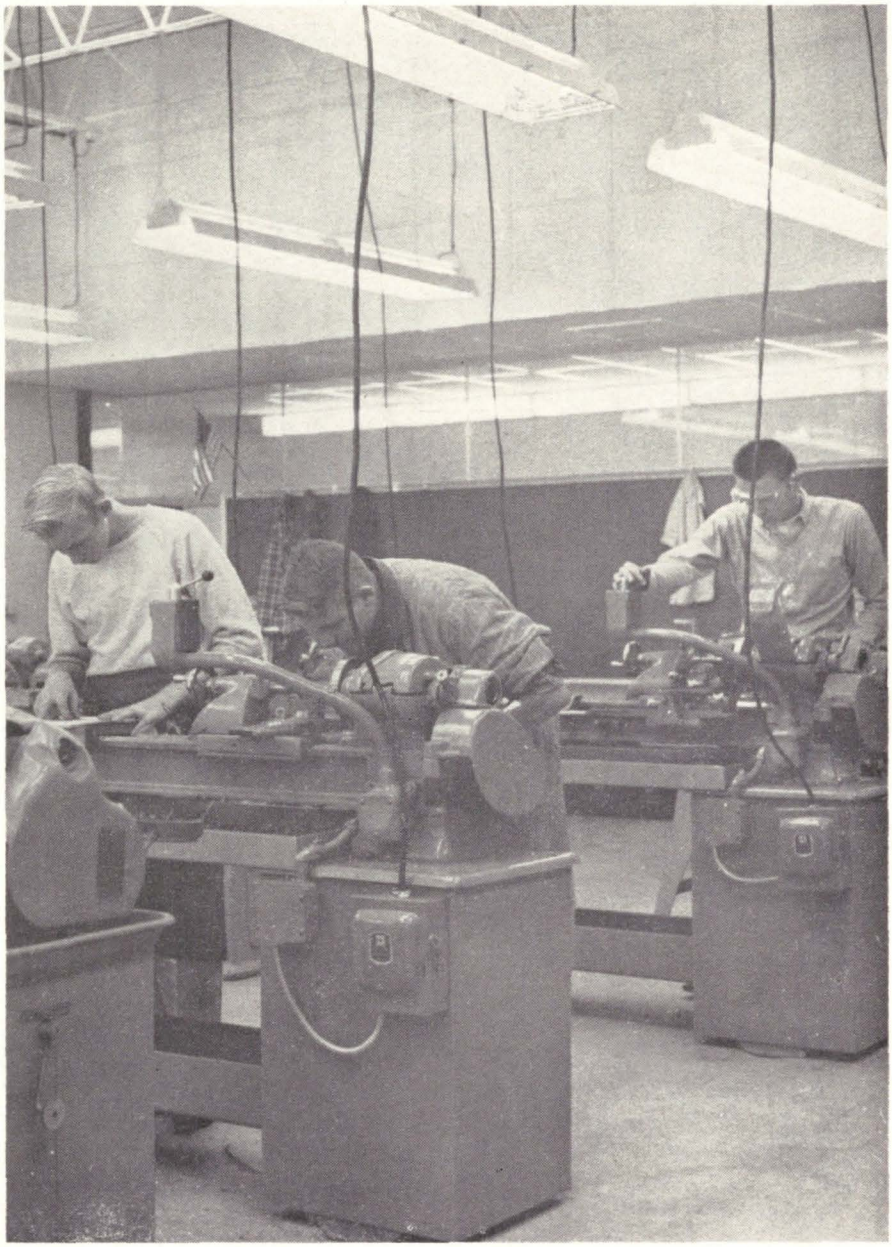
To coordinate the efficient use of an excellent physical plant and a comprehensive educational program, guidance plays an important part in Griffith's quality education.

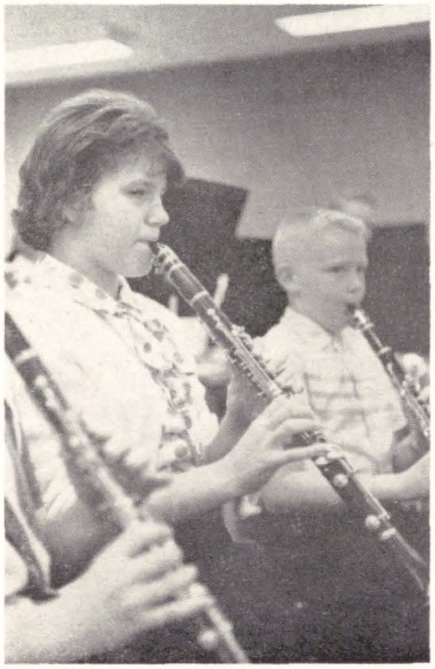
Under the direction of trained guidance counselors, students are given every opportunity for self improvement. Psychological, occupational, and achievement tests are administered during various levels of student development to provide data to assist in counseling and directing students — whether the choice be that of individual courses, college selection, or a vocational decision.

In addition the guidance center maintains up-to-date files which include information on colleges, occupations, and employment opportunities. The guidance area is housed in a flexible four room suite.

Home economics in a pleasant, appropriate setting assists in the preparation of individuals for a homemaking career or for a possible career in the service trades.

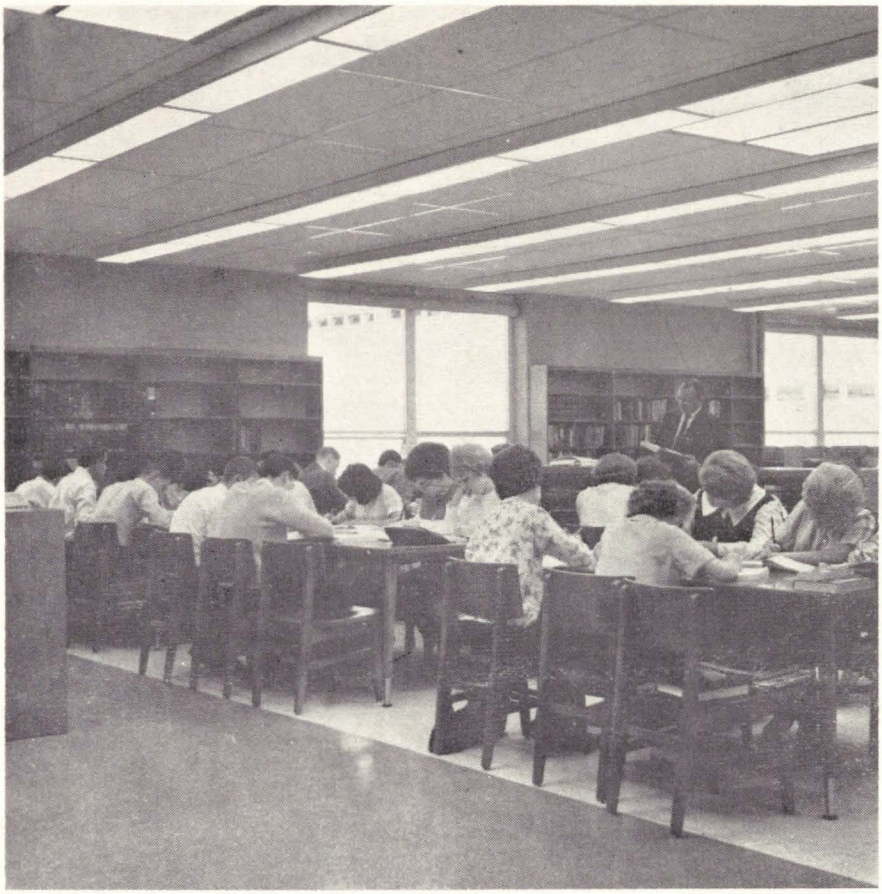
Those students who wish to pursue industrial arts as a basis for a life's work or as an avocation will find thoroughly equipped shops at their disposal. Industrial and vocational needs are constantly studied in order to adjust facilities to up-to-date industrial requirements.





It is the philosophy of the Griffith Schools that it is vital to meet the cultural and esthetic needs of students as individuals. Toward this end the creation and appreciation of good music have been established as high-priority goals in the utilization of the band and vocal rooms area in both the junior and senior high schools.

The same aspirations hold true in making provision for a wide variety of materials, devices, and approaches in the teaching of art. Course offerings include art fundamentals also, as well as self-expression opportunities in arts and crafts.

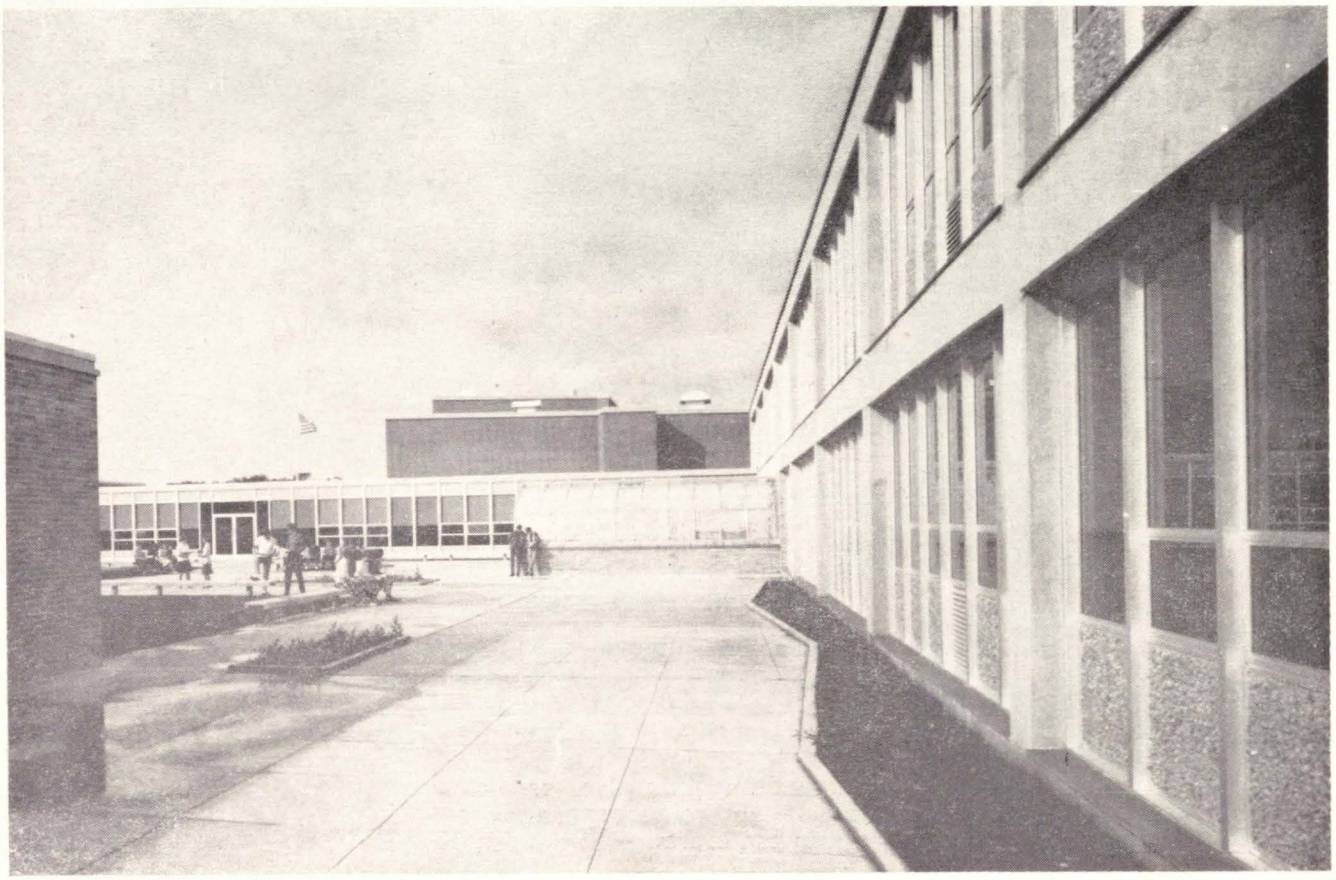


# *A broad range of educational values*

The student library is another example of the desire to provide the most functional educational facilities available. The library contains a wide selection of books, periodicals, and magazines, as well as numerous sources of reference material.

Two separate reading rooms with the use of one central stack designed for 20,000 volumes is an outstanding feature of this junior-senior high shared facility. Individual study carrels within the library provide a quiet, comfortable opportunity for students to utilize their study and research skills.

In the planning and development of the building one of the major objectives was to provide a building with flexibility — with



has also been planned as a cultural center for many of the activities of the entire Griffith community.

The cafeteria area is an extremely functional space which can be quickly converted from a 700 seat dining area into an area for other uses during the school day. It lends itself to school dances and extra-curricular activities as well.

In contrast to the colorful, comfortable, well-lit classrooms, the students will have the opportunity to utilize the landscaped patio section of the school grounds to visit with friends, to study, or just to enjoy a "sunshine pause" during the busy routine of seeking an education.

provisions for both small and large group instruction. To aid in fulfilling this objective conference rooms are available in the library for class and small group work.

A fully equipped 1000-seat auditorium is available for the presentation of student productions and for meetings and assemblies. The auditorium can be divided into three separate lecture areas whenever needed through the use of moveable partitions at the rear of the main floor area. The most up-to-date theatrical equipment is installed to enhance quality education in the dramatic arts.

Not only will the auditorium house student productions but it

# *Outstanding physical education facilities aid physical and emotional development*

Physical education courses are an important part of the curriculum to help students develop coordination, poise, and physical confidence.

Gymnasium facilities in the Junior-Senior High School are designed to provide the student with the finest opportunities for physical development.

Included in the physical education complex are two gymnasiums for team activity and a modern swimming pool designed for teaching skills and providing recreation.

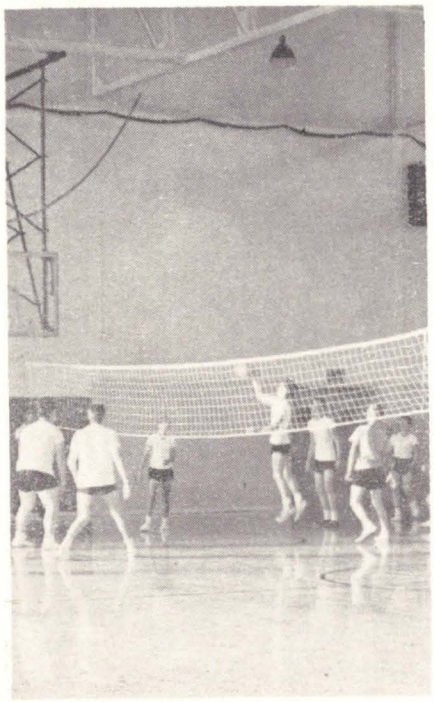
The main gymnasium contains a regulation basketball court with seating for 2800 spectators.

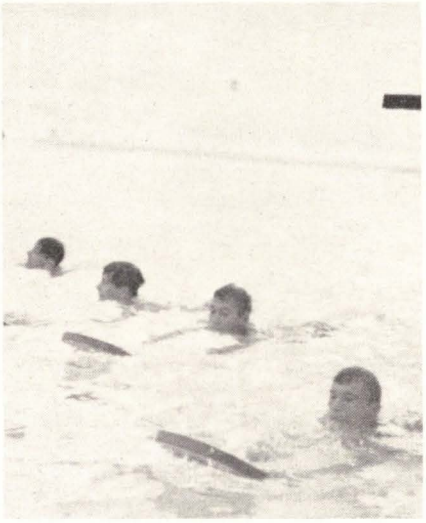
Adjacent to the main gymnasium is a two story structure which houses a new gymnasium on the second floor and locker room area for both boys and girls.

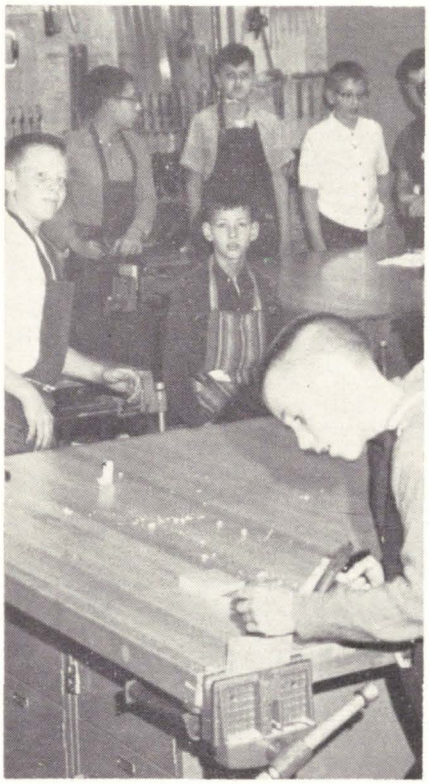
Reversible multi-purpose bleachers are installed in the new gym, permitting spectators to view the swimming pool or when reversed to view athletic contests.

Housed in a well-ventilated room, the swimming pool has an adjacent sun deck area which will be used in warmer weather during year-round community-school use for instructional and recreational programs.

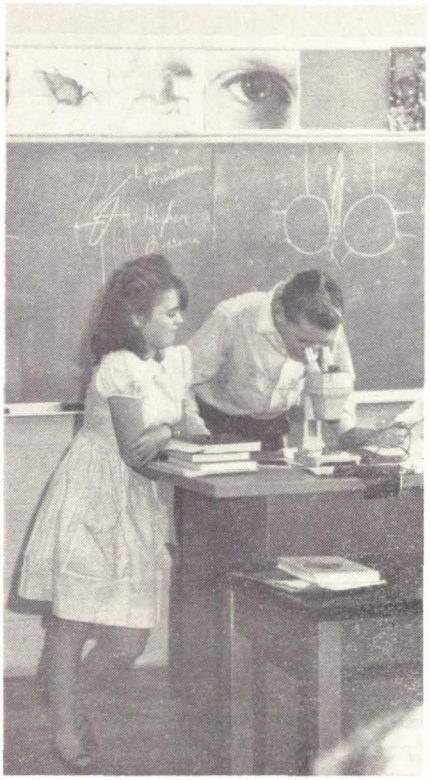
The shower and dressing rooms have been likewise selected with a view toward facilitating extensive public use.

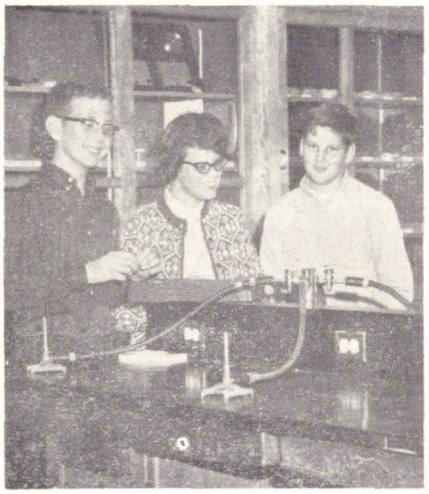


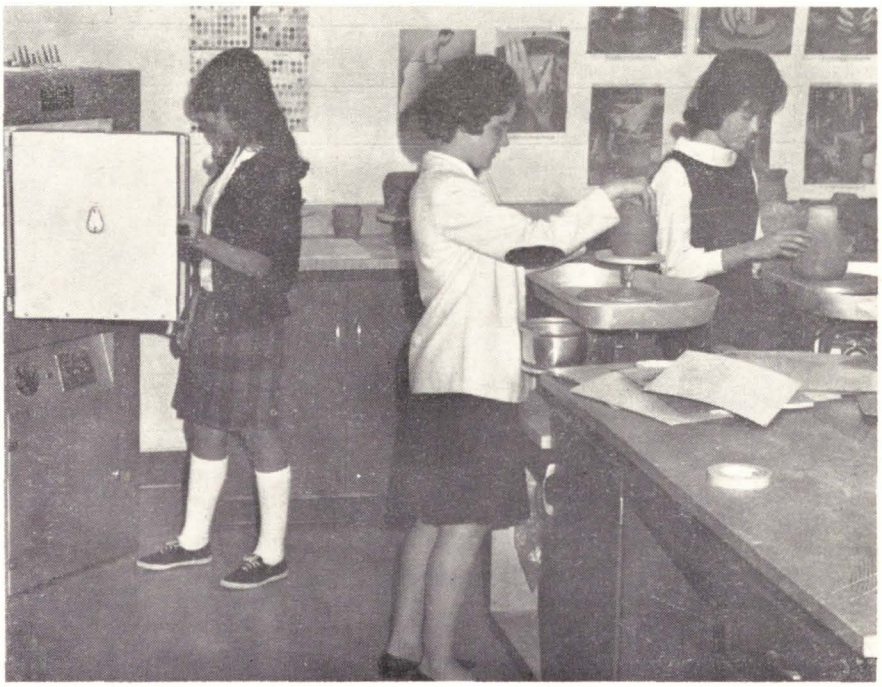




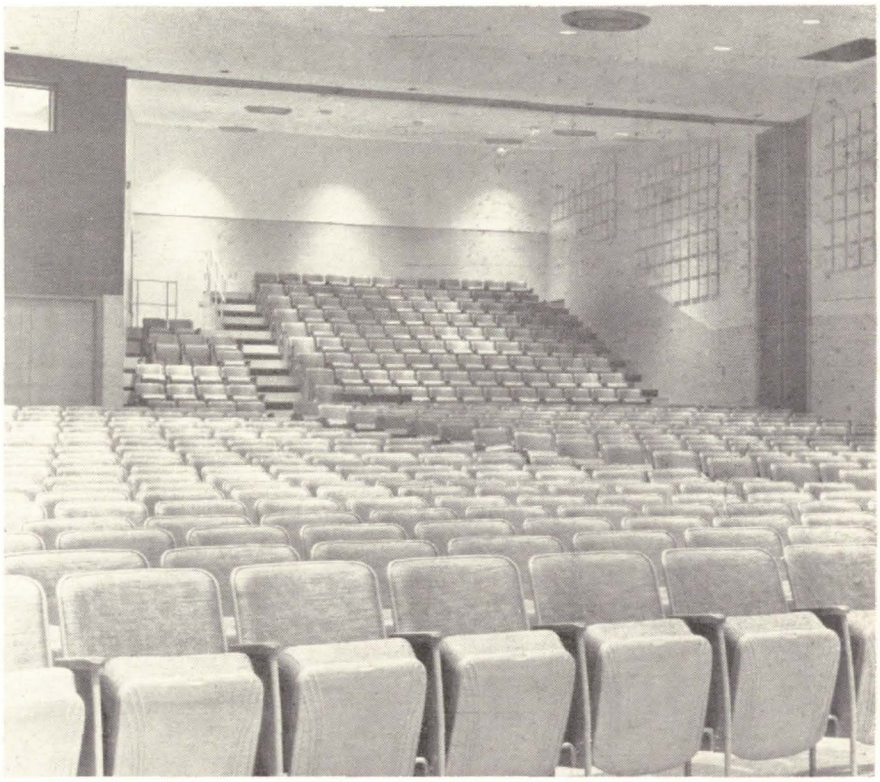
# *To provide the latest in junior high programs*







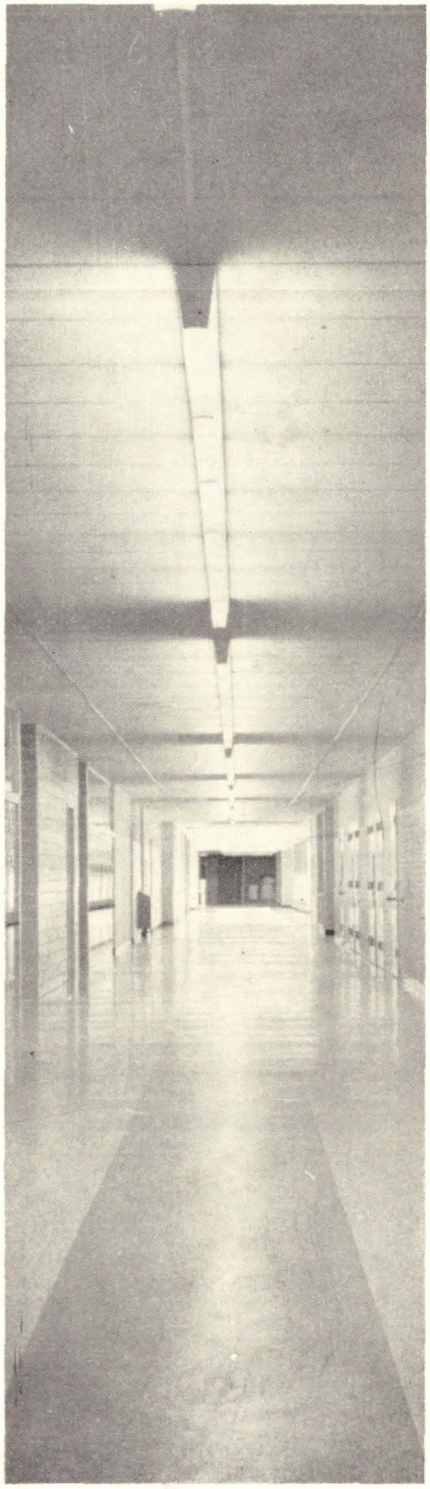
The Junior High School will share several of the same facilities with the Senior High School. In addition much extensive remodeling occurred in the Junior High simultaneously with the building of the Senior High. This resulted in facilities that could bring to bear the latest in research findings in the teaching-learning relationship. Among other changes were the up-dating of facilities in industrial arts, home economics, art, and science.



Each of us, both parent and teacher, has the awesome responsibility of assisting our children in their search for knowledge and self-actualization.

In addition provision for a cultural center, social center and selected recreational services are a part of this flexible and functional building.

Toward these purposes this building has been dedicated.



## Contractors

Calumet Construction Corporation ..... Hammond
Gatlin Plumbing and Heating, Inc. ..... Griffith
Tri State Electric Co., Inc. ..... Hammond

## Architect

Bachman and Bertram ..... Hammond